GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:688
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
INCREASING NUMBER OF PASSPORT APPLICATIONS
Naik Shri Shripad Yasso

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of applicants for issue of passport has increased manifold in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether additional arrangements at regional levels have been made in the States in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) Yes. There has been an increase in the number of applicants for passports.

(b) Details are enclosed as an annexure.

(c) & (d) The Government had entrusted the National Institute of Smart Government (NISG), Hyderabad, with the task of undertaking a time-bound study on the passport issuance system, including its IT aspects with the objective to deliver passport related services to the citizens in a timely, transparent, more accessible, reliable manner. The Government accepted the NISG report as a result of which "Passport Seva Project" has been launched. The proposal is to have 77 Passport Seva Kendras all over the country where the non-sovereign functions, involved in the passport issuance process, such as initial scrutiny of the application forms, acceptance of fee, scanning of the documents, taking photos, etc. will be performed by the service provider selected as a result of an open bidding process. The sensitive activities, such as verification of documents, decision on grant of passport, printing and dispatch of passports, will be performed by the Government staff. The project is expected to result in the issue of passports within 3 days and in cases, which require prior police verification, within 3 days after the completion of the verification process. The Project is expected to be implemented fully by the beginning of 2010.